What is claimed is:

1. A method for receiving and storing voice mail messages, the method comprising:
receiving, at a first server, an incoming call;
determining whether the call is to be transferred to voice mail;
responsive to determining that the call is to be transferred to voice mail,
determining the call's voice mail extension and determining a second server, the second server being the voice mail extension's home server;
determining whether the second server is a remote server;
responsive to determining that the second server is a remote server, determining whether the second server is available; and
responsive to determining that the second server is not available, storing the voice mail message in the first server.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising;
responsive to determining that the call is not to be transferred to voice mail,
handling the call normally.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
responsive to determining that the second server is not a remote server, storing the voice mail message in the first server.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
responsive to determining that the second server is available, sending the voice mail message to the second server.

5. A method for distributing voice mail messages, the method comprising:

determining, at a first server, whether a second server is available;

responsive to determining that the second server is available, retrieving a voice mail message from the first server; and

sending the voice mail message to the second server.

6. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

querying a configuration module for a location of the second server.

7. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving, by the second server, the voice mail message; and

storing, by the second server, the voice mail message.

8. An apparatus for receiving, storing, and distributing voice mail messages, the apparatus comprising:

a call status module, configured to determine whether a call should be transferred to voice mail;

a call transfer module, configured to determine a call's voice mail extension and a server on which the voice mail extension resides; and

a voice mail migration module, configured to send a voice mail message to a remote server.

9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein:

the call transfer module is further configured to determine whether the server on which the voice mail extension resides is a remote server.

10. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a storage interface module, configured to allow modules to store and retrieve data.

11. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

an audio encoding/decoding module, configured to convert audio voice mail messages to a data format suitable for storage and to convert voice mail messages from this storage data format to an audio format.

12. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a telephony application programming interface module, configured to allow modules access to data on a switch.

13. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

a configuration module, configured to provide information about remote servers.

14. The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising:

an extension library module, configured to provide common functions that are used by modules.

15. A system for receiving, storing, and distributing voice mail messages, the system comprising:

at least two apparatus as in claim 8, the at least two apparatus being coupled to each other.